Anthropology 108: Medical Anthropology
AIDS in Transnational Perspective
Fall 2008

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Class: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 – 11:45
Room: Health Bldg 407
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9-10 am
Tuesday 3-6 pm

Course Description and Objectives

This course focuses on how a single disease, AIDS, is understood and experienced cross-culturally. This upper division course is an introduction to medical anthropology and the theoretical orientations that shape it. Through the examination of geographically diverse case studies focusing on cultural beliefs and practices surrounding experiences of AIDS as an illness and disease, this course will explore biological, socio-economic, political and cultural contributors to health, illness, and healing.

Course Pre-requisites: Anthropology 11 or consent from the instructor.

Class Format: Class sessions will include individual participation, small group discussions, and group poster presentations.

Classroom Etiquette: If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly. Cell phones must be turned off and put away – no text messaging in class. Computers may be used only for class purposes.

Student Learning Objectives
Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:
1. Be able to think critically, especially using comparative frameworks, analyze processes and identify assumptions.
2. Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.
3. Be able to identify and analyze the process of social change.
4. Be able to recognize and analyze the forces that foster social cohesion and fragmentation in related social movements.
5. Understand the complexities of social life both globally and locally in their communities as they reflect different points of view.
6. Conduct research on a specific topic and present their findings clearly and from the perspective of a medical anthropologist.

Learning Objectives of the Anthropology Department

KNOWLEDGE
1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution*
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity*
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.*
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.*

SKILLS
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.*
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.*
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.*
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.*

PROFESSIONAL VALUES
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

* These goals are particularly relevant to Anthropology 108.

Required Texts and Material
5. Anthropology 108 Reader

The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com. The reader is available at Maple Press (located at 481 E. San Carlos). All material will be on reserve in the MLK Library.

Course Requirements
Your grade for the semester will be based on the following assignments and activities:

Class participation: Students are expected to attend class having prepared the day’s assignment in advance and actively engage in class activities, such as discussions of the assigned reading material. Giving full credit for active participation, partial credit for passive participation and/or late entry or exit in an activity, and no credit for non-participation will assess participation. Class participation accounts for 10% of the total grade.
**Mid-term Exam:** The mid-term will be composed of multiple choice, True and False questions, fill in the blanks and short essay questions. The mid-term exam accounts for 30% of the final grade.

**Group Poster Presentation:** Students will work in a group - the size of the group will be determined by class enrollment – on a poster presentation focusing on different aspects of AIDS in specific country or population. Group poster presentations account for 20% of the final grade. A detailed handout will be distributed in class.

**Final Exam:** The final will be on December 12, 2008 from 9:45 – 12:00 pm. It will be composed of multiple choice, True and False questions, fill in the blanks and short essay questions. The final exam will account for 40% of the final grade.

**Grading Distribution**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-97</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>96-93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>91-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>86-83</td>
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<td>82-80</td>
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<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>76-73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;63</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Plus and minus grades may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion.

See [http://www.genesco.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/formalinformal.html](http://www.genesco.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/formalinformal.html) for a discussion of formal and informal writing.

See [http://www.genesco.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/commonerrors.html](http://www.genesco.edu/~writing/?pg=topics/commonerrors.html) for a list of the common writing errors that occur in student writing and how to avoid such problems.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense in both academic and professional environments. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else’s ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties. It might also result in you failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to educate yourself, or ask for clarification, before you hand in written work.

Learning when to cite a source, and when not to, is an art, not a science. However, here are some examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- If you use a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you paraphrase somebody else’s theory or idea and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
• If you use a picture or table from a web page or book and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

• If your paper incorporates data that someone else has collected and you do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

The SJSU library has a tutorial that explains how to identify and avoid plagiarism, available at: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm.

In addition, the University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See, in particular, the following three pages:

• http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html
• http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
• http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html

If you have questions about the official SJSU policy on plagiarism, please read the “Academic Integrity Policy” at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-369.html.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (924-6000).

Course Schedule

Students will be informed about changes to the schedule ahead of time. Students are responsible for noting those changes.

**Week 1: Introduction to Medical Anthropology**
August 26, Tuesday
Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines...

**Video: Pandemic**

August 28, Thursday

**Read:** Singer and Baer (2007). “Chapter 1: Why Have Medical Anthropology?” in Introducing Medical Anthropology: A Discipline in Action, pp. 1-34

**Video: Pandemic**

**Week 2: Medical Ecology**
September 2, Tuesday


September 4, Thursday

Week 3: Medical Ecology
September 9, Tuesday

September 11, Thursday

Week 4: Medical Systems
September 16, Tuesday

September 18, Thursday

Week 5: Medical Systems
September 23, Tuesday

September 25, Thursday

Week 6: Healers
September 30, Tuesday
October 2, Thursday

Week 7: Magic, Religion and Healing (production of knowledge)
October 7, Tuesday

October 9, Thursday
MIDTERM

Week 8: Magic, Religion and Healing (production of knowledge)
October 14, Tuesday

October 16, Thursday

Week 9: Magic, Religion and Healing (production of knowledge)
October 21, Tuesday

October 23, Thursday

Week 10: Illness Experience
October 28, Tuesday

October 30, Thursday

Week 11: Illness Experience
November 4, Tuesday

November 6, Thursday

Week 12: Illness Experience
November 11, Tuesday
Veteran’s Day
No class

November 13, Thursday

Week 13: Culture Change and its impact of health
November 18, Tuesday
Video: Yesterday (96 min)

November 20, Thursday (American Anthropological Meetings)
Video: Yesterday (96 min)

Week 14: Culture Change and its impact on health
November 25, Tuesday

November 27, Thursday
Thanksgiving Holiday
No Class

Week 15: Culture Change and its impact on health
December 2, Tuesday
Read: Fassin, D. (2007). “Chapter 6: Living with Death” and “Conclusion:
This World We Live In” in When Bodies Remember: Experiences and Politics of AIDS in South Africa, pp. 228-279.


Group Poster Presentations

December 4, Thursday

Group Poster Presentations

Week 16: Wrap-Up
December 9, Tuesday (last day of instruction)

Group Poster Presentations
Review

FINAL EXAM: December Friday December 12th from 9:45 am to 12:00 pm.